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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
HUJAZ, OMAR F				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3633				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,168

Applicant(s)

ECKELT ET AL.

Examiner

OMAR HIJAZ

Art Unit

3633

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/22)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

The Amendment filed on August 28, 2009 has been entered. Claims 24-43, 45, and 46 have been amended. Therefore, claims 24-46 are pending in the application.

Response to Amendment

1. The previous claim objections have been withdrawn in light of applicant's amendments.
2. The previous 35 USC 112 rejections are withdrawn in light of applicant's amendments.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the façade framework of claim 46 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering

of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 24-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 24, at lines 6 and 9, the recitations "inside faces" and "outside faces" render the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to whether these "faces" are referring to the faces of the glass panel surface or the faces of the edges of the glass panels.

As per claim 25, at line 2, the recitation "an intermediate layer" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to whether or not this is referring to the recitation "a bonding layer" in claim 24. Or is this a different layer all together? In addition, at lines 5-6, the recitation "and a thickness of each intermediate layer" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to whether the "and" is signifying the "sum" or if it is a separate item from said "sum".

As per claims 28 and 29, at lines 2 and 3, the recitations "a projecting rim" and "a recessed rim" render the claim indefinite because it is unclear if applicant is referring to the same "one projecting rim" and "one recessed rim" as recited in claim 27, on which claims 28 and 29 depend.

As per claim 31, at lines 4 and 6, the recitations "at least one recessed rim", "at least one projecting rim", and "at least two projecting rims" render the claim indefinite because it is unclear if applicant is referring to the same "rims" as recited in claim 27, on which claim 31 depends. Proper antecedent basis may be lacking.

As per claim 33, at line 2, the recitation "one intermediate bonding layer" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to whether or not this is referring to the recitation "a bonding layer" in claim 24. Or is this a different layer all together? In addition, at lines 2 and 3, the recitation "inside faces" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to whether these "faces" are referring to the faces of the glass panel surface or the faces of the edges of the glass panels.

As per claim 46, at line 1, the recitation "a plurality of glass glazing elements" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to whether or not this is referring to the recitation "a plurality of individual glazing elements" in claim 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 24-30, 32-34, 38, and 44-46, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Praeger (U.S. Patent No. 2,338,870) in view of Demars et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,434).

As per claim 24, Praeger teaches an assembly device (partition construction; title), comprising: at least two laminated elements (panels 11 and 12; the panels are bonded; col. 2, lines 15-20), the laminated elements each including a plurality of individual elements (11a, 11b, 12a, 12b; note that the drawing in figure 2 is mislabeled, as the panel adjacent to 11a should read 11b, not 12b) that are rigid (plasterboard panels; col. 1, lines 25-30) and assembled to one another at a surface by a bonding layer (13), wherein the laminated elements succeed one another in a direction of extension (as illustrated, the elements 11 and 12 succeed each other in a direction of extension; figure 2), and partially overlap in an overlap region (as illustrated, the elements 11a and 12b overlap in an overlap region; figure 2) where inside faces of the laminated elements are contiguous and in perpendicular projection to one another (figures 2-3), wherein the laminated elements are assembled to one another in the overlap region (figure 2) so that outside faces of the laminated glazing elements are in axial alignment (figure 2), and wherein only part of, and at least one of, the individual elements of each of the laminated glazing elements, extends into the overlap region (as illustrated, the individual elements 11a and 12b extend into the overlap region; figure 2).

Praeger fails to disclose that the panels are laminated glazing elements.

Demars et al. discloses a plurality of laminated glass elements (4 and 5) in a panel wall (figure 1).

Therefore from the teaching of Demars et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the partition construction of Praeger to include laminated glazing elements as taught by Demars et al. in order to provide for a transparent structure for aesthetics.

As per claim 25, Praeger teaches each of the elements includes an intermediate layer (13) between at least one pair of the individual glazing elements (figure 2), and wherein a thickness of the overlap region, which is equal to the sum of thicknesses of the individual glazing elements extending into the overlap region (as illustrated, the thickness of the partition at the overlap region is the thickness of the elements 11a and 12b) and a thickness of each intermediate layer, does not exceed the thickness of one of the laminated elements (the thickness of the layer 13 does not exceed the thickness of one of the laminated elements; figure 2).

As per claim 26, Praeger teaches an edge side of each of the laminated elements includes rims that are offset relative to one another in the direction of extension (as illustrated, the rims, or edges of each of the elements are offset relative to one another; figure 2), wherein the rims of one of the laminated elements are intended to be contiguous edge to edge with the rims of another of the laminated elements (as illustrated, the edge of 12a are contiguous with the edge 12b; figure 2).

As per claim 27, Praeger teaches an edge side of each of the laminated glazing elements includes at least one projecting rim formed by one of the individual elements which protrudes and at least one recessed rim formed by one of the individual elements

which is recessed (as illustrated, the edge of 12b is projecting with respect to 11b, while the edge of 12a is recessed with respect to 11a; figure 2).

As per claim 28, Praeger teaches the individual glazing elements which form a projecting rim are joined together and the individual elements which form a recessed rim are joined together (as illustrated, the elements are joined together; figure 2).

As per claim 29, Praeger teaches in the direction of extension, a projecting rim of a second of the laminated elements follows a recessed rim of a first of the laminated glazing elements (as illustrated, the edge of 12b is projecting and follows the edge of 12a, which is recessed; figure 2).

As per claim 30, Praeger teaches two rims offset relative to one another form a staggered formation on the edge side of each of the laminated elements (as illustrated, the elements 12a and 12b are staggered with respect to elements 11a and 11b; figure 2).

As per claim 32, Praeger fails to disclose in the overlap region, at least one mechanical retention member connecting the successive laminated glazing elements is provided.

Demars et al. discloses a plurality of laminated glass elements (4, 5) with at least one mechanical retention member (fastening element 12) connecting the successive laminated glazing elements is provided (figure 2a).

Therefore from the teaching of Demars et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the partition construction with the overlapping edges of Praeger to include successive laminated

glazing elements connected with a mechanical fastener as taught by Demars et al. in order to further fasten the elements together.

As per claim 33, Praeger teaches in the overlap region, one intermediate bonding layer (13) is provided between the inside faces of two successive laminated glazing elements (figure 2).

As per claim 34, Praeger fails to disclose in the overlap region, at least one through-hole passing through the laminated glazing elements latter is provided for insertion of a mechanical retention member.

Demars et al. discloses a plurality of laminated glass elements (4, 5) with at least one through-hole (9) passing through the laminated glazing elements (figure 2a) is provided for insertion of a mechanical retention member (fastening element 12).

Therefore from the teaching of Demars et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the partition construction with the overlapping edges of Praeger to include successive laminated glazing elements connected with a mechanical fastener as taught by Demars et al. in order to further fasten the elements together.

As per claim 38, Praeger in view of Demars et al. discloses the mechanical retention member comprises end washers (end washers 15 and 16) to mask the through-hole from outside of the through-hole (figure 2A).

As per claim 44, Praeger in view of Demars et al., discloses glass elements but fails to disclose the individual glazing elements are made of partially prestressed or prestressed glass.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use prestressed glass with the glazing assembly since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice, and prestressed glass provides for a stronger glazing assembly.

As per claim 45, Praeger in view of Demars et al. discloses at least two laminated glazing elements assembled to one another by the assembly device (as illustrated, there are at least two laminated glazing elements assembled to one another; figure 2a).

As per claim 46, Praeger fails to disclose a façade, comprising a plurality of glass glazing elements attached to a framework, while being situated in a plane, which is reinforced transversely to the plane against acting forces by at least one construction module.

Demars et al. discloses a façade (col. 1, lines 15-20), comprising a plurality of glass glazing elements (4) attached to a framework (bearing structure; col. 1, lines 15-20), while being situated in a plane (figure 2a), which is reinforced transversely to the plane against acting forces (it is understood that such a structure is capable of resisting forces).

Therefore from the teaching of Demars et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the partition construction with the overlapping edges of Praeger to be part of a façade attached to a

framework as taught by Demars et al. in order to create smooth bond between the glazing elements.

8. Claims 31, 35-37, 39, and 41-43, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Praeger (U.S. Patent No. 2,338,870) in view of Demars et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,434) and further in view of Hermens et al. (German Patent DE 10063547 C1 with English equivalent translation U.S. Pub. 2004/0055697).

As per claim 31, Praeger further teaches at least one recessed rim and one projecting rim at an adjoining edge (as illustrated, the edge of 12b is projecting and follows the edge of 12a, which is recessed; figure 2).

The Praeger and Demars et al. combination discloses all the elements of the claimed invention, but fails to disclose each of the laminated glazing elements comprises at least three individual glazing elements.

Hermens et al. discloses a plurality of laminated glass elements (abstract) including at least three individual glazing elements (11, 12, and 13).

Therefore from the teaching of Hermens et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the partition construction with the recessed and projecting edges of the Praeger and Demars et al. combination to include laminated glazing elements with at least three glazing elements as taught by Hermens et al. in order provide for a more strengthened the structure.

As per claim 35, the Praeger and Demars et al. combination fails to disclose the mechanical retention member comprises means for centering a longitudinal axis of the

mechanical retention member passing through the laminated glazing elements along an axis of the through-hole.

Hermens et al. discloses a glazing assembly (abstract) with a mechanical retention member (fastening element 60) whereby the mechanical retention member comprises means for centering a longitudinal axis of the mechanical retention member passing through the laminated glazing elements along an axis of the through-hole (as illustrated, the fastening element 60 is centered through the glazing elements via a means for centering; figure 2).

Therefore from the teaching of Hermens et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to replace the fastening element with the overlapping edges of the Praeger and Demars et al. combination with the mechanical fastener with centering means in a through-hole as taught by Hermens et al. in order to better fasten the elements together in a centered manner.

As per claim 36, Praeger in view of Demars et al., and further in view of Hermens et al. discloses the mechanical retention member is centered fixedly along the axis of a hole in an individual glazing element of a first of the laminated glazing elements (figure 2), and comprises means for compensating for off-center positioning (eccentric rings 40 and 43) of the axis of a hole in an individual glazing element of a second of the laminated glazing elements outside the axis of the hole in the individual glazing element of the first of the laminated glazing elements (as illustrated, the eccentric rings 40 and 43, are adapted as a means for positioning the fastening assembly; figure 2).

As per claim 37, Praeger in view of Demars et al., and further in view of Hermens et al. discloses the mechanical retention member comprises: at least one sleeve (bush 50) configured to be inserted in the through-hole (figure 2), a centering ring (41) surrounding the sleeve (figure 2) and configured to be adjusted in the hole with the centering ring in circumferential alignment with an external diameter of the sleeve and a diameter of the hole (it is well known that centering rings are adjustable and are configured to align and center elements being clamped together), and eccentric rings (eccentric rings 40 and 43) configured to rotate relative to one another and configured to be adjusted in the hole (it is understood that eccentric rings are adapted to be rotated upon adjustment in a bore or hole), with one of the eccentric rings (43) in circumferential alignment with the external diameter of the sleeve (figure 2) and another one of the eccentric rings (40) in circumferential alignment with the diameter of the hole (as illustrated, the ring 40 is in circumferential alignment with the diameter of the hole; figure 2).

As per claims 39 and 42, Praeger in view of Demars et al. discloses the mechanical retention member comprises end washers (end washers 15 and 16) to mask the through-hole from outside of the through-hole (figure 2A).

As per claim 39, Praeger in view of Demars et al. and further in view of Hermens et al., discloses the sleeve is immobilized along a longitudinal axis of the sleeve in the through-hole after tightening or screwing (as illustrated, the nuts 61 and 62 are adapted to screw the fastening assembly in place; figure 2; it is understood that with a washer of

proper dimensions, this would tighten all of the members together and therefore if tightened tight enough, the sleeve 50 would be immobilized).

As per claim 41, Praeger in view of Demars et al., and further in view of Hermens et al. discloses after installation of the mechanical retention member in the through-hole, remaining hollow spaces in the through-hole are filled with a mass of filler (molding resin 9; figure 2).

As per claim 42, Praeger in view of Demars et al. and further in view of Hermens et al. discloses orifices (ducts 70 and 71) for insertion of the mass of filler (molding resin 9).

As per claim 43, Praeger in view of Demars et al. fails to disclose the end washers further comprise orifices for the discharge of air displaced by the inserted mass of filler, however, Hermens et al. discloses that the clamping nuts 23 and 24 may have air-exhaust ducts machined in to release air bubbles (paragraph 32), and therefore it would have been obvious to place such ducts in the washers of Demars et al. in order to provide a further means for ventilation.

9. Claim 40, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Praeger (U.S. Patent No. 2,338,870) in view of Demars et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,434), and further in view of Kreyenborg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,623,203).

As per claim 40, the Praeger and Demars et al. combination discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention, Demars et al further discloses the end washers are

applied flat on the laminated glazing elements about exits of the through-hole (figure 2a).

The Praeger and Demars et al. combination fails to disclose intermediate shims.

Kreyenborg et al. discloses a clamp fixture to fasten glass plates (abstract) with shims 19 (col. 5, lines 40-50).

Therefore from the teaching of Kreyenborg et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the glazing assembly of the Praeger, Demars et al., and Hermens et al. combination to include shims in the glass assembly as taught by Kreyenborg et al. in order to properly tighten and secure the glass element without further damage to the glass.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments and amendments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. New references Praeger (U.S. Patent No. 2,338,870) and Hermens et al. (German Patent DE 10063547 C1 with English equivalent translation U.S. Pub. 2004/0055697) have been added to overcome the newly added limitations.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendments necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OMAR HIJAZ whose telephone number is (571)270-5790. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (alternating Fridays).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Dunn can be reached on (571)272-6670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OFH

/Brian E. Glessner/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3633